## **Natural Resources Conservation Service**

# **Application Ranking Summary**

# FY17 Cherokee Foothills Fire Adapted Landscape Prj

Program:	Ranking Date:	Application Number:
Ranking Tool: FY17 Cherokee Foothills Fire Adapted Landscape Prj		Applicant:
Final Ranking Score:		Address:
Planner:		Telephone:
Farm Location:		

### **National Priorities Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
If the application is for development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP), the agency will assign significant ranking priority and conservation benefit by answering "Yes" to the following question. Answering "Yes" to question 1a will result in the application being awarded the maximum amount of points that can be earned for the national priority category.	
1. a. Is the program application to support the development of a Conservation Activity Plan (CAP)? If answer is "Yes", do not answer any other national level questions. If answer is "No", proceed with evaluation to address the remaining questions in this section.	
Water Quality Degradation – Will the proposed project improve water quality by: (select all that apply)	
2. a. Implementing the practices in a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan (CNMP)?	Yes O or No O
2. b. Implementing the practices in a Nutrient Management Plan (NMP)?	Yes O or No O
2. c. Reducing impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides on land adjoining a designated "impaired water body" (TMDL, 303d listed waterbody, or other State designation)?	
2. d. Reducing the impacts from sediment, nutrients, salinity, or pesticides in a "non-impaired water body"?	Yes O or No O
2. e. Implementing practices that improve water quality through animal mortality and carcass management?	Yes O or No O
Water Conservation – Will the proposed project conserve water by: (select all that apply)	
3. a. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce aquifer overdraft.	Yes O or No O
3. b. Implementing irrigation practices that reduce on-farm water use?	Yes O or No O
3. c.Implementing practices in an area where the applicant participates in a geographically established or watershed-wide project?	Yes O or No O
3. d. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm water use as a result of changing to crops with lower water consumptive use, the rotation of crops, or the modification of cultural operations?	Yes O or No O
Air Quality - Will the proposed project improve air quality by: (select all that apply)	
4. a. Meeting on-farm regulatory requirements relating to air quality or proactively avoid the need for regulatory measures?	Yes O or No O
4. b. Implementing practices that reduce on-farm emissions of particulate matter (PM2.5, PM10)?	Yes O or No O
4. c.Implementing practices that reduce on-farm generated greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide (CO2), methane (CH4), and nitrous oxide (N2O)?	Yes O or No O
4. d. Implementing practices that increase on-farm carbon sequestration?	Yes O or No O
Soil Health:- Will the proposed project improve soil health by: (select all that apply)	
5. a. Reduce erosion to tolerable limits (Soil "T")?	Yes O or No O
5. b.Increasing organic matter and carbon content, and improving soil tilth and structure?	
Wildlife Habitat – Will the proposed project improve wildlife habitat by: (select all that apply)	
<ol><li>a. Implementing practices benefitting threatened and endangered, at-risk, candidate, or species of concern.</li></ol>	Yes O or No O

6. b. Implementing practices that retain wildlife and plant habitat on land exiting the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) or other set-aside program?	Yes O or No O
6. c. Implementing practices benefitting honey bee populations or other pollinators?	Yes O or No O
6. d. Implementing land-based practices that improve habitat for aquatic wildlife?	Yes O or No O
Plant and Animal Communities: Will the proposed project improve plant and animal communities by: (select all that apply)	
7. a. Implementing practices that result in the management control of noxious or invasive plant species on non-cropland?	Yes O or No O
7. b. Implementing practice in an Integrated Pest Management Plan (IPM)?	Yes O or No O
Energy Conservation—Will the proposed project reduce energy use by: (select all that apply)	
8. a. Reducing on-farm energy consumption?	Yes O or No O
8. b. Implementing practice(s) identified in an approved AgEMP or energy audit, which meet ASABE S612 criteria?	Yes O or No O
Business Lines – Will the practices to be scheduled in the "EQIP Plan of Operations" result in:	
9. a. Enhancement of existing conservation practice(s) or conservation systems already in place at the time the application is received?	Yes O or No O

#### **State Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	
1. Does the land offered in this application have a Forest Stewardship Plan (or equivalent) OR a Wildlife Management Plan?	Yes O or No O
2. Will this application contain at least one (1) practice that treats a field(s) that is eroding in excess of "T" or gullied areas within the field(s)? (Run RUSLE II)?	Yes O or No O
3. Will this application have at least one (1) practice that directly benefits threatened and endangered or at-risk wildlife species (plant or animal)as identified by NRCS, South Carolina DNR, and/or the US Fish and Wildlife Service? (Any practice on land where an identified and documented Threatened or Endangered, at risk, OR candidate species on SC DNR RTE data layer. T&E listed species should be confirmed by a biologist)	
4. Does the SC Wildlife Habitat Index for this application reflect a habitat net effect benefit of 0.50 or greater?(Planned index value - Existing Index Value)	
5. Will this application include practices that address native oak and pine habitat restoration in the proper soil type?	
6. Does this application include implementation of buffers (393/386) or invasive species control (314/315)?	Yes O or No O
7. Does the application include practices that benefit pollinators?	Yes O or No O
8. Will the majority (>50%) of the land offered in this application lie in a watershed designated on SCDHEC's 303d list of impaired watersheds or is in a watershed with an existing 319 project?	
9. Will this application include practices that improve/restore forest health and reduce fuel loads?	Yes O or No O
10. Has the applicant had an EQIP contract terminated within the last three years?	

### **Local Issues Addressed**

Issue Questions	Responses
1. Will the practices in this application include Tree Planting of native pine or oak species?	Yes O or No O
2. Will the practices in this application include Prescribed Burning to improve forest management, improve wildlife habitat, and/or reduce fuel load?	Yes O or No O
3. Will the practices in this application include Forest Stand Improvement that will benefit native pine or oak species?	Yes O or No O
4. Will the practices in this application include Brush Management to treat exotic or invasive woody species within forested areas?	Yes O or No O

### **Land Use:**

Resource Concerns	Practices
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Ranking Score		
Efficiency:		
Local Issues:		
State Issues:		
National Issues:		
Final Ranking Score:		
This ranking report is for your information. It does not in any way guarantee funding. When funding becomes available, you will be notified if your application is selected for funding. Some changes to the application may be required before a final contract is awarded.		
Notes:		
NRCS Representative:	Applicant Signature Not Required on this report for Contract Development unless required by State policy:	

Signature Date:

Signature Date: